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REPLY OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE
BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

September 21st, 1937.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur :

With reference to the incident of the wounding of His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to China, Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen, concerning which I made an ad interim reply in my Note under the date of September 6th, 1937, I now have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the inquiry in Shanghai and its vicinity having been completed the Japanese Government desire to make the following reply:

2. As the result of most careful investigations it has been established that on August 26th at 2.35 p.m., two Japanese planes machine-gunned and bombed two motor-cars which were believed, in all ~~probability~~, to be military busses or trucks carrying officers or soldiers of the Chinese army at a point three kilometres southeast of Kating, where the Chinese forces were concentrated and since August 18th, not only had Japanese aeroplanes made repeated attacks upon them but a number of aerial combats between the Japanese and Chinese planes had taken place.

3. Owing to the difficulty, in present circumstances, of conducting an investigation on the spot, there has been some slight discrepancy in the various reports received as to the position of the Ambassador's motor-car at the time when he was wounded, but it was ascertained that no Japanese aeroplane had made a machine-gun attack or dropped a bomb in the locality where the Ambassador was first reported to have been wounded.

However, careful study made simultaneously by the Japanese and British authorities leads to the conclusion that the

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position of the motor-car in question might have been to the southward of Kating, instead of 6 miles south of Taitsang as stated in an earlier British report.

4. In the light of all these circumstances, the Japanese Government consider that the incident may have been caused by Japanese planes which mistook the Ambassador's motor-car as a military bus or truck. As the wounding of the Ambassador may thus have been due to the action, however involuntary, of Japanese aircraft, the Japanese Government desire to convey to His Britannic Majesty's Government a formal expression of their deep regret.

5. As regards the question of the punishment of the aviator concerned, it is needless to say that the Japanese Government would take suitable steps whenever it was established that Japanese aviators killed or wounded, intentionally or through negligence, nationals belonging to a third country.

6. As stated in their interim note of September 6th, instructions have been sent again to the Japanese forces in China to exercise the greatest care in safeguarding non-combatants, it being the desire and policy of the Japanese Government to limit, as far as this can possibly be done, the dangers to non-combatants resulting from the existence of hostilities in China.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

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His Excellency

The Right Honourable Sir Robert L. Craigie, K.C.M.G.,

His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to Japan.

Etc., Etc., Etc.,

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CERTIFICATE

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, ODO, Nagaharu, Assistant Chief of the Archives Section,
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document in
English entitled "REPLY OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO
THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR" (21 September 1937) is an exact and true
copy of an official translation of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo 4 October 1946.

(signed) Nagaharu, ODO
Signature of Official

Witness : (signed) T. SATO

not used

駐支英國大使這羅事件我方最終回答（九月二十二日披露）
以警報上致候陳者支那駐劄英國大使「サー、ヒュー、ナツデブ
ル、ヒューゲツセン」氏ノ負傷事件ニ關シテハ不取敢九月六日附
往翰ヲ以テ回答ニ及ヒ置キタル處其ノ後上海及其ノ附近ニ於ケル
取調完了セルニ付本大臣ハ閣下ニ對シ帝國政府ハ左ノ通り回答セ
ントスルモノナル旨通報スルノ光榮ヲ享シ候

最モ周到ナル調査ノ結果ニ依レハ八月二十六日午後二時三十五
分日本飛行機二機ハ嘉定ノ南東三軒ノ地點ニ於テ支那軍兵ヲ
送中ノ軍用「バス」若ハ「トラツク」ト確信セラレタル自動車ニ
襲ヲ銃爆撃セルコト判明シタル處當時嘉定ニハ支那軍ノ陣地アリ
八月十八日以來日本飛行機ハ之ニ對シ屢次攻撃ヲ行ヒタルノミナ
ラス日支兩軍飛行機ノ間ニ數次ニ亘リ空中戰行ハレタル次第ニ有
之候

現在ノ狀況ニ於テハ現地調査ヲ行フコト困難ナルヲ以テ「ナソチ

ブル、ヒューゲッセン」大使負傷當時ニ於ケル同大使自動車ノ位置ニ關スル各種ノ報告ニ幾分ノ相違ハアリタルモ日本飛行機ニハ同大使力當初負傷シタルト報告セラレタル地點ニ於テ機關銃ヲ掃射シテハ發彈ヲ投下セルモノ無之コト判明致候

然レトモ日英官憲ニ於テ同時ニ周到ナル調査ヲ遂ケタル結果當該自動車ノ位置ハ英國側當初ノ報告所載ノ通り太倉ノ南方六哩ニ非スシテ嘉定ノ南方ナリシヤモ知レストノ結論ニ到達致候

敘上ノ次第ニ儘ミ帝國政府ハ本事件ハ同大使ノ自動車ヲ軍用ニバスメ一若ハ一トラックニト誤認シタル日本飛行機ノ行爲ナリシヤモ計ラレスト思考スルモノニ有之候此ノ如ク同大使ノ負傷ハ固ヨリ故意ニ出テタルニハ非サルモ日本飛行機ノ行動ニ因リタルヤモ計リ難キ次第ニ儘ミ帝國政府ハ英國政府ニ對シ深尋ナル遺憾ノ意ノ正式表示ヲナサントスルモノニ有之候

關係搭乗員ノ處分ニ關シテハ帝國政府ハ日本搭乗員ニシテ故意

若ハ憐意ニ因リ第三國人ヲ殺傷シタルコト判明セル場合ニハ適當ナル處置ヲ執ルヘキコト勿論ノ次第ニ有之候

支那ニ於ケル戰闘行爲存在ノ結果生スヘキ非戰闘員ニ對スル危險ヲ出來得ル限り局限セントスルハ帝國政府ノ希望シ且方針トスル所ニシテ在支帝國軍隊ニ對シ非戰闘員ニ損害ヲ與ヘサル様最大ノ注意ヲ拂フヘキ旨帝國政府ヨリ重ネテ訓令済ノ次第ハ九月六日附不取敢回答シ置キタル通りニ有之候

右回答旁々本大臣ハ茲ニ重ネテ閣下ニ向テ敬意ヲ表シ候 敬具

昭和十二年九月二十一日

外務大臣 廣田 弘毅

大不列顛特命全權大使

「ゼ、ライト、オノラブル、サー、ロート、クレイギー」 閣下